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STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

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PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES: BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH AND CHEMICAL

DEPENDENCY PROFESSIONALS – Legislative Committee

MEETING DATE AND TIME: October 26, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, Delaware

Conference Room A, second floor of the Cannon Building

MINUTES APPROVED 12/14/2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. William Northey, LMFT, Presiding Daniel Cherneski, LMFT Daniel Cooper, LPCMH Lisa Ritchie, LCDP (11:31 a.m. – 11:51 a.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mary Davis, LCDP Robert Doyle, Public Member

DIVISION STAFF/DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL PRESENT

Danny Stevenson, Deputy Attorney General Jessica Williams, Administrative Specialist II

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Northey called the meeting to order at 11:13 a.m.

Discussion Regarding Legislative Updates

Dr. Northey advised the Committee that the current statute for all the professions that are regulated by the Board, needs updating. The Committee reviewed the current statutes, and determined that the definition for "direct supervision contact" for LACMH needs to be updated in the regulations to be in line with the definition in the statute. The Committee discussed the possibility of updating the statute to be a practice act, to provide more protection to the public. Ms. Williams advised the Committee that surrounding states have practice acts for counselors. The current statute states that individuals cannot hold themselves out as a licensed professional. The Committee discussed the fact that the public may not be aware that an individuals who hold themselves out as a "counselor", may not have the proper education and experience to help a client who is in a fragile state.

The Committee will recommend to the Board, that the regulations be updated to reflect the proper definition of "direct supervision contact" and that a practice act be implemented for all professions regulated by the Board.

Other Business before the Subcommittee (For Discussion Only)

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Mr. Cooper suggested that the Committee consider requiring an examination of the regulations and statute for applicants, to ensure that they are aware of Delaware requirements.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Next Meeting Date

The Committee will meet on December 14, 2011 at 11:00 p.m. in Conference Room B, 2^{nd} floor of the Cannon Building.

Adjournment

Mr. Cherneski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cooper, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried. There being no further business before the Subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Williams

Administrative Specialist II